(c) Mycobacteria have evolved siderophores with lipid chain tails that enable them to exploit the macrophage's lipid-trafficking system to capture iron more efficiently. Now that these major siderophore genes have been defined as mentioned above, understanding the biosynthetic pathway that they are responsible for is the next step necessary in order to move eventually to the stage of developing small-molecule inhibitors with the potential to emerge as novel anti-tuberculosis drugs.

Recruitment age of nurses

2505. SHRIMATI S G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the age limit for recruitment of nurses/ sisters/male nurses in all the Central Government hospitals in the country is 35 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi recently brought out an advertisement for recruitment of above mentioned staff and the age limit prescribed was 30 years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the guidelines of Department of Personnel and Training the upper age limit for direct recruitment to the posts carrying the scale of pay of Rs. 5000-8000/- is 25 years. However, in the case of Central Government Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences the prescribed upper age limit for the post of Staff Nurses/Male Nurses is 35 years and 30 years respectively.

Smack addicts in India

2506. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smack, a retail business out of opium, addicts are growing leaps and bounds in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan and 3/4th of opium in India is available in some parts of Madhya Pradesh;